

MIT's Oldest and
Largest Newspaper

tech.mit.edu



WEATHER, p. 2

TUE: 49°F | 32°F
Sunny

WED: 52°F | 42°F
Wind and rain

THU: 50°F | 33°F
Sunny

Volume 131, Number 54

Tuesday, November 22, 2011

Stephanie Lin wins Rhodes *Senior will study medical anthropology at Oxford*

By Derek Chang
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Stephanie Lin '12 was recognized this week as MIT's newest Rhode Scholar. She will be studying at Oxford next year along with 32 other American recipients who received the honor. Lin is the 45th MIT undergraduate to receive the Rhodes Scholarship.

"I was extremely surprised when I got the news," said Lin, a biology major and applied international studies minor. "The other applicants are all so highly accomplished — I feel very lucky to have received the scholarship."

Lin will be spending her year at Oxford to pursue an MPhil in medical anthropology. "I'm interested in studying viruses and infectious diseases, especially when they are applied to issues in international medicine," she said.

According to Lin, one of her inspirations to pursue medicine was the work that she did at Health Leads Boston, a patient advocacy program that works to improve the health of individual children and families. There, she volunteered in hospital waiting rooms and referred patients to resources like food stamps. "My work in Health Leads has introduced me to the social, human side of medicine, and I especially enjoy the blend of scientific and social issues involved in medicine," Lin said.

Lin has been involved in the MIT community ever since she arrived on campus. She was first interested in pursuing chemistry, but after taking introductory biology, she was convinced that biology was the right major for her.

The activities that Lin has partici-



JOSEPH MAURER—THE TECH

Stephanie Lin '12 won a Rhodes scholarship to study medical anthropology at Oxford University next year. She is majoring in biology.

Rhodes, Page 11

Committee gathers community feedback on Orientation, again

This past Monday, the Review Committee on Orientation, which was formed in March to examine and re-evaluate MIT's orientation, held its second forum this semester to "put its ears to the ground" and gather community feedback on the pros and cons of various components of orientation. All the efforts of this committee would go into modifying the orientation two years from now, which would likely be "tweaked" rather than "overhauled," said committee chair Merritt R. Smith, with next year's orientation remaining unchanged. The meeting included a

Orientation, Page 10

MIT, Pfizer break ground on 610 Main *Speakers laud center's significance*

By Adisa Kruayatidee
STAFF REPORTER

Monday morning, MIT and pharmaceutical giant Pfizer celebrated the official groundbreaking of a new research center right next to campus. MIT President Susan J. Hockfield opened the ceremony, whose speakers included Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick and Pfizer President of Worldwide Research and Development Mikael Dolsten. With a mighty heave — literally — they and other participants shoveled dirt and took the first step toward what Hockfield described as "the best way to support innovation in Cambridge."

Located at 610 Main St. — an MIT-owned property — Pfizer will be close enough to MIT's Brain and Cognitive Sciences complex

that researchers can walk between both "without wearing a jacket in winter," said Rod McKenzie, head of Pfizer PharmaTherapeutics R&D. "It wasn't enough to have a Cambridge zip code; we wanted to be right here."

In September, Pfizer announced it had signed a 10-year lease with MIT for 180,000 square feet of space in a building to be constructed at 610 Main St. The project is managed by the MIT Investment Management Company.

One of the recurring themes at the ceremony was the idea of research collaboration. The company deliberately chose to move to Cambridge to foster relationships and discussion between MIT's scientists and their own drug delivery

Groundbreaking, Page 10

Occupy UC digs heels in *Students protest tuition & police action*

By Jennifer Medina
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LOS ANGELES — It has become something of an annual tradition on California college campuses, in what is perhaps the most prestigious state university system in the country: the state makes large cuts in public universities, they in turn raise tuition, and students respond with angry protests.

But this year, propelled in part by the fervor of the Occupy Wall Street movement and in part by the state of the economy and California's mountainous budget woes, the battle is sharpening. Indeed, the Occupy movement — on campuses, at least — is transforming itself into a student-led crusade against increases in tuition.

Protests, Page 11

IN SHORT

Last warning: drop date is this Wednesday. Go drop the classes you said you were going to drop two weeks ago.

The Tech will not be publishing this coming Friday due to Thanksgiving break. Our staffers need a break and massive amounts of tryptophan.

Do some good in this world. Participate to the MIT Public Service's Giving Tree program, which provides

needy children with gifts during the holiday season.

Yesterday, Bloomberg Business-Week ranked MIT's undergraduate business program as the ninth best in the nation!

Campus Activities Complex (CAC) room reservation for the 2012-2013 academic year opens next Monday at 9 a.m. Reserve the rooms while they're fresh. For more information, visit <http://studentlife.mit.edu/cac>.

I fold!



MELISSA RENEE SHUMACHER—THE TECH

Michelle Fung '13 shows students how to fold a pentagonal rose during OrigamiMIT's first origami conference on Saturday.

A TALE OF TWO TURKEYS

Meet turkey A and turkey B. They've got interesting stories to tell.
CAMPUS LIFE, p. 9

AT THE END OF THE WORLD

Melancholia is weird ... pretty weird.
ARTS, p. 7

21W @ MIT

Life as a writing major at MIT.
CAMPUS LIFE, p. 9



OVERHEAR SOMETHING FUNNY?

Sometimes Engineers say the darndest things.
CAMPUS LIFE, p. 9

TRADITION AND MODERNITY

Old and new, West and East meet in photography exhibit.
ARTS, p. 7

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Arrest of top adviser to Iran’s president is reported

By Rick Gladstone and Artin Afkhami
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A simmering rivalry between Iran’s president and powerful adversaries within the conservative hierarchy spilled into the open Monday when judiciary forces briefly arrested his top media adviser, who also runs the official news agency and a leading newspaper, witnesses and Iranian news accounts said. The witnesses said the adviser, Ali Akbar Javanfekr, was handcuffed for an hour in a raid on his Tehran office and released only after President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad threatened to come person-

ally and free him. The security forces used tear gas when they barged into the office, the witnesses said, and they arrested at least 32 other people. It was not clear whether the others had been released. Javanfekr is the chief executive of the official Islamic Republic News Agency, known by its acronym, IRNA, and the manager of IRNA’s print affiliate, Iran, the official daily newspaper. He is one of the most powerful figures in publicizing Iran’s government policies and messages to the outside world. Details on the exact circumstances of the raid were not clear. But the episode appeared to be the most dramatic instance in which the friction between

Ahmadinejad and conservatives in the government emerged in the open; the president’s conservative critics have increasingly challenged him over what they regard as a “deviant current” of presidential advisers who want to subvert the authority of the Islamic clergy. The catalyst for the Javanfekr’s arrest appeared to be a ruling Sunday by an Iranian court that Javanfekr had offended Islamic values by questioning the Islamic dress code for women. The court ordered him imprisoned for a year and barred him from working in journalism for three years, but Javanfekr had a few weeks to appeal the punishment.

Syrian opposition meets with British officials

By Sebnem Arsu
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISTANBUL — Syria’s political opposition widened its outreach Monday, sending representatives to Britain as the Syrian government withstood signs of further isolation over an uprising that is increasingly resembling a prolonged armed struggle to oust President Bashar Assad. William Hague, Britain’s foreign secretary, met with the opposition representatives, the Foreign Office said on its website. Hague did not specify what type of assistance, if any, was discussed, but he said in a statement that “we want to con-

tinue to step up the international pressure on the Assad regime, a regime that has long since lost its legitimacy in the eyes of the wider world.” The Arab League has suspended Syria, and a growing number of countries, led by the United States and members of the European Union, have penalized Assad with economic sanctions. Turkey, which Assad had once counted as a friend, has also castigated him, given sanctuary to an insurgent group and threatened further action. Turkey’s president, Abdullah Gul, who was about to begin a three-day visit to Britain, said in an interview with the BBC on Monday

that Assad was not serious about meeting the legitimate demands of his political opponents, “so therefore we don’t have any more trust.” The developments came as anti-Assad activist groups reported 12 new deaths Monday in the Syria uprising, which has claimed more than 3,500 lives by the United Nations’ count since it began in March. Reuters said the latest civilian deaths included two youths killed by Syrian security forces in the central city of Homs, an epicenter of the movement, as the forces were looking for a Syrian soccer celebrity, Abdelbasset Saroud, who has been leading protest rallies against Assad.

Prosecutors: Khmer Rouge leaders’ brutality ‘defies belief’

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — Opening statements in the most significant stage of a U.N.-backed trial of Khmer Rouge leaders began Monday with a horrifying account of the atrocities of a regime that a prosecutor said was responsible for the deaths of one-fourth of the population during its four-year rule from 1975 to 1979. The three defendants, former leaders of the Khmer Rouge, listened as one of two prosecutors, Chea Leang, accused them of turning the country into “a massive slave camp producing an entire nation of prisoners living under a system of brutality that defies belief.” The defendants include Nuon Chea, 85, the party’s chief ideologue, who the prosecution said received reports and gave specific directions as to “who would be arrested and who would be killed.” The other prosecutor, Andrew Cayley, said one witness who would testify to receiving these instructions was Kaing Guek Eav, commandant of the movement’s main prison, who was sentenced in July 2010 to 35 years in prison, later commuted to 19. —Seth Mydans, The New York Times

King of Jordan visits the West Bank

RAMALLAH, West Bank — King Abdullah II of Jordan visited the Palestinian West Bank for the first time in a decade Monday and conferred with President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority as both men begin risky reconciliation efforts with the Islamists of Hamas. Abbas is to hold power-sharing talks with Khaled Meshal of Hamas this week in Cairo to try to put an end to a four-year-old bitter division within the Palestinian movement. Meshal, who is based in the Syrian capital, Damascus, and has been barred from official visits to Jordan since 1999, has been invited there next week. As popular upheavals across the Middle East grant Islamist parties more influence, both Abbas and the king are being pressed to soften their policies toward Hamas. —Ethan Bronner, The New York Times

As Wall Street downsizes, a dry spell for young workers

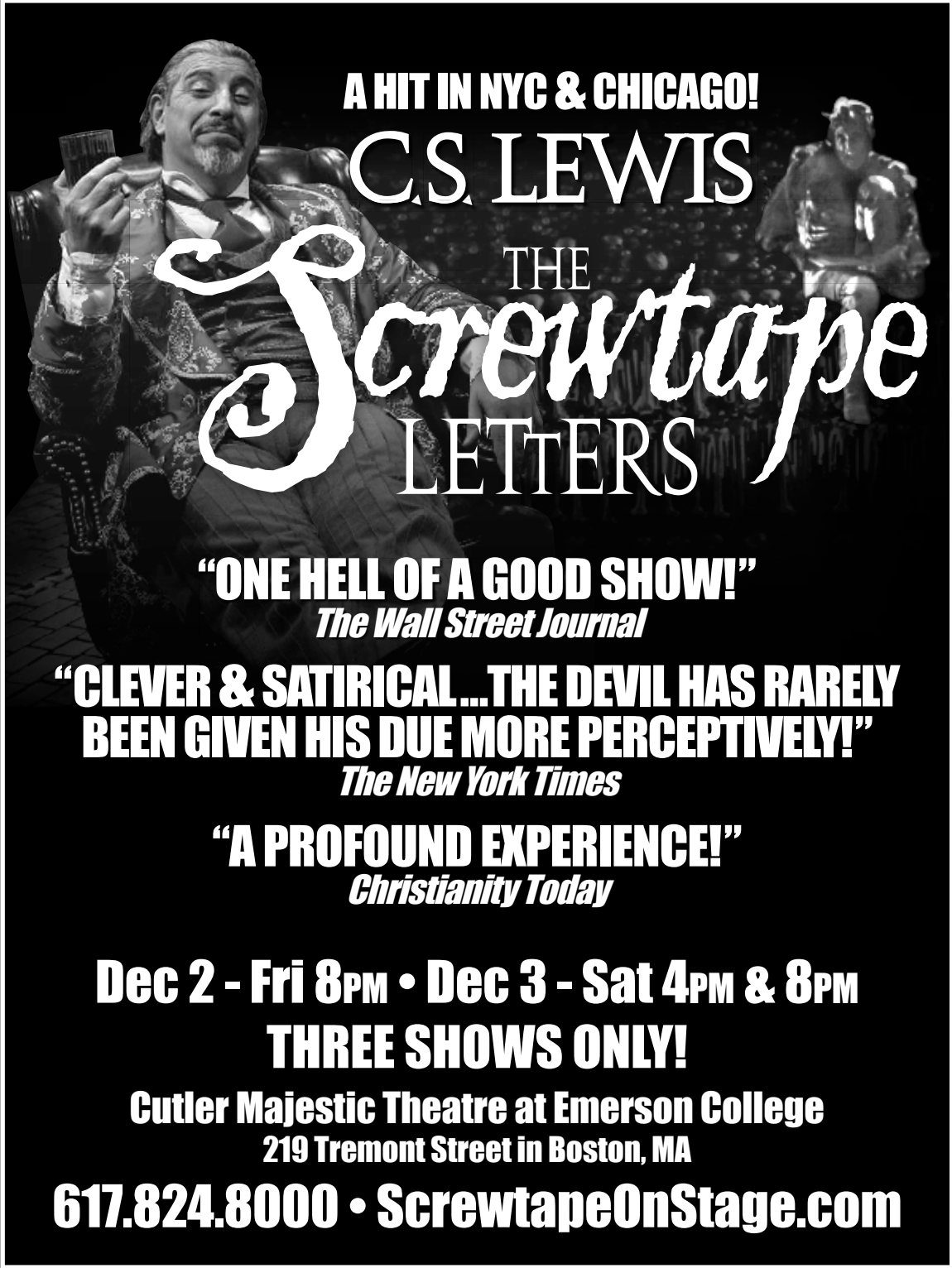
NEW YORK — Steve Ferdman celebrated getting a job offer this fall from Credit Suisse in the usual Wall Street fashion. Over oysters and dark rum cocktails at a trendy Manhattan restaurant with his parents. A week later, Ferdman, 28, sat alone at the same place with a gin and tonic, lamenting getting laid off by the bank, for the second time since 2008. “I did everything right. I came into work every day, I put in long hours, and I still got punched in the face,” Ferdman said. “People shouldn’t want to work in this industry anymore.” Being young on Wall Street once meant having it all: style, smarts and too much money. Now, 20-somethings in the finance industry are losing cash and cachet. Three years after the global financial crisis nearly brought Wall Street firms to the brink, the nation’s largest banks are again struggling. As profits wane, layoffs have claimed thousands of jobs and those still employed have seen their compensation shrink. —Kevin Roose, The New York Times

Failure absorbed with disgust and fear, but little surprise

Does the U.S. political system even work anymore? Variations on that question kept coming up Monday as Americans — at least those paying attention — absorbed the news that the congressional committee charged with reducing the deficit had failed to even meet very often, let alone come up with a plan to get the country back in the black. From shoppers in Los Angeles to tourists in Atlanta to traders taking cigarette breaks outside the Chicago Board of Trade, the eye-rolling that often accompanies doings in Washington gave way to something bordering on dismay. “My reaction when I heard they failed was more emotional than anything,” Elizabeth Weinraub, a 25-year-old retail manager, said as she got her morning fix at a Los Angeles Starbucks. “I’m not even sure what that means in the grand scheme. But it was a bum-out.” People were not just annoyed: they were worried. Khalfani Lawson, a 23-year-old student at Kennesaw State University in Georgia, said the lack of progress was breeding apathy among the young. A record 84 percent of Americans said they disapproved of the way Congress was handling its job in the most recent New York Times/CBS News poll last month, the most since The Times first began asking the question in 1977. Congress’ approval rating has sunk to 9 percent, the poll found, a record low. —Michael Cooper, The New York Times

Gilead will buy Pharmasset for \$11 billion

Gilead Sciences made a bold move Monday to capture the lead in developing the next generation of hepatitis C drugs, agreeing to pay \$11 billion in cash for Pharmasset. The treatment of hepatitis C has undergone a revolution this year, with new pills from Vertex Pharmaceuticals and Merck sharply increasing the cure rates and also often cutting the required duration of treatment. But those new drugs still must be used with alpha interferon, a type of drug injected once a week that can cause severe flulike symptoms and other side effects. Pharmasset, based in Princeton, N.J., is pushing to develop the first all-oral treatment regimen, doing away with the need for interferon. Its drug candidate, PSI-7977, has just entered the final phase of clinical testing and could be on the market by 2014, Gilead said. Pharmasset is “way ahead of everybody else,” Norbert W. Bischofberger, Gilead’s executive vice president for research and development, told analysts in a Monday morning conference call. —Andrew Pollack and Michael J. De La Merced, The New York Times



A HIT IN NYC & CHICAGO!

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Screwtape

LETTERS

“ONE HELL OF A GOOD SHOW!”
The Wall Street Journal

“CLEVER & SATIRICAL...THE DEVIL HAS RARELY BEEN GIVEN HIS DUE MORE PERCEPTIVELY!”
The New York Times

“A PROFOUND EXPERIENCE!”
Christianity Today

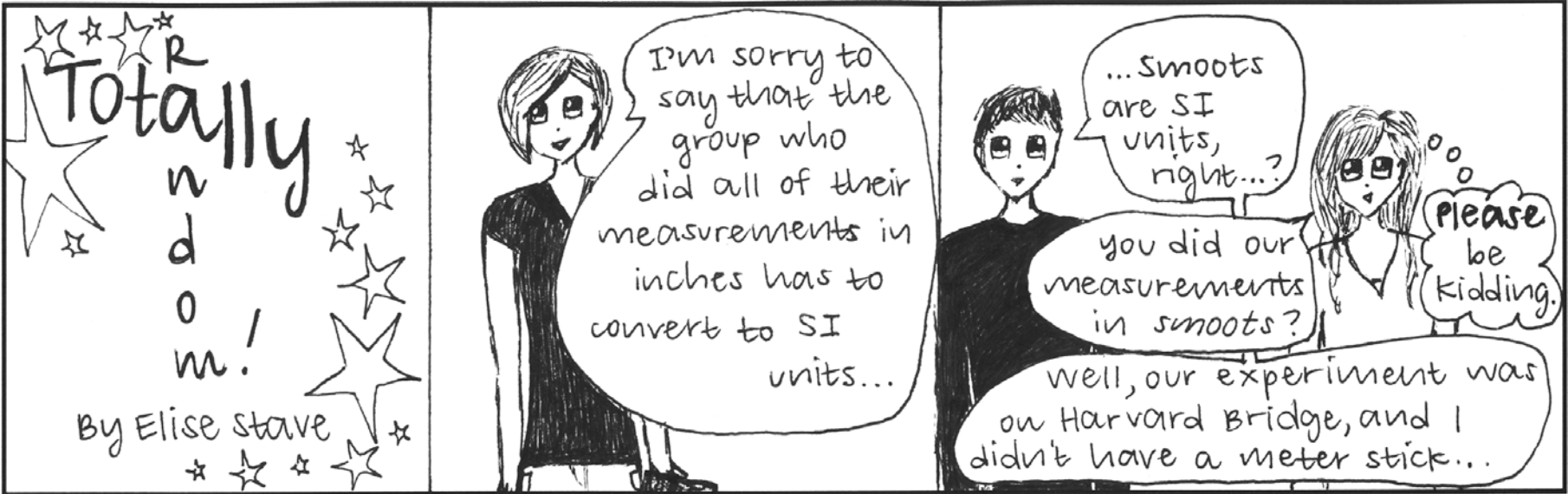
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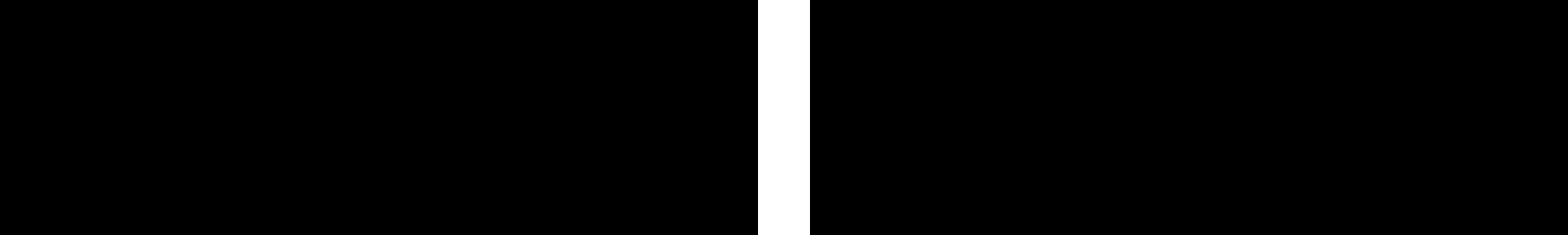
Totally Random by Elise Stave



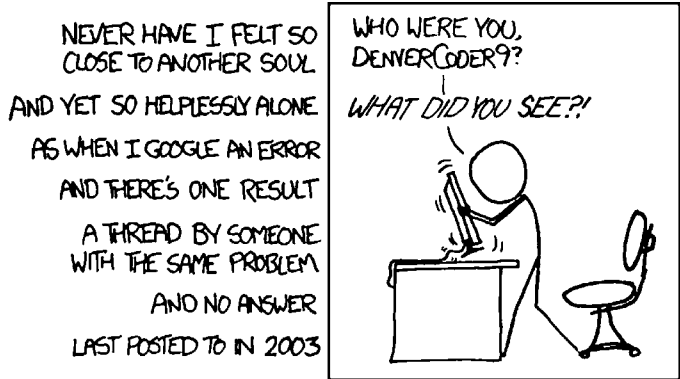
Arthursaurus Rex by Ramya Swamy



Dilbert by Scott Adams



[979] Wisdom of the Ancients



Look, a *square!*

Squares have four equal sides. Daddy's kind of a square too, but that's another story.

Everyday moments can be learning moments with your kids. For more tips, visit bornlearning.org

This space donated by *The Tech*

All long help threads should have a sticky globally-editable post at the top saying 'DEAR PEOPLE FROM THE FUTURE: Here's what we've figured out so far ...'

Crossword Puzzle Solution, page 8

ACROSS

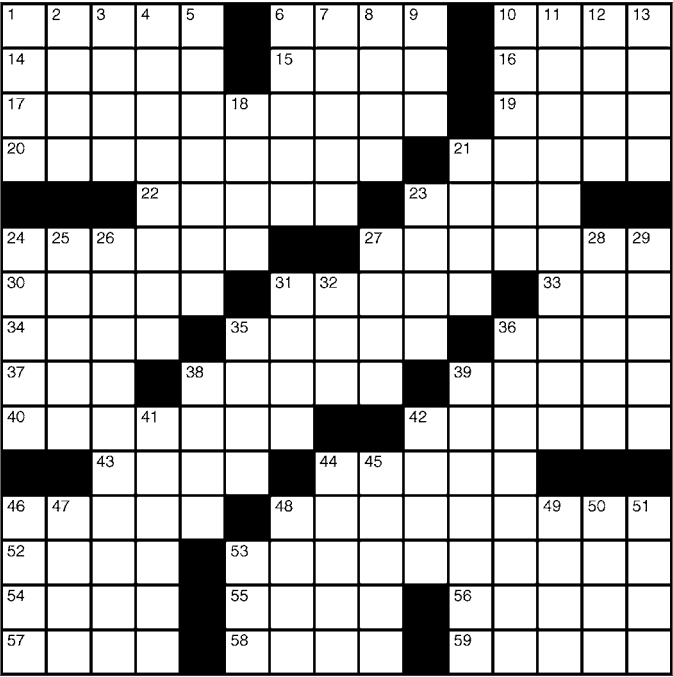
- 1 Grip
- 6 High: pref.
- 10 Old Icelandic saga
- 14 Heart connection
- 15 Bellow
- 16 Playwright Coward
- 17 Star of "The Wise Little Hen"
- 19 Seethe
- 20 Superlatively tempestuous
- 21 Part of a mailing add.
- 22 Bruno of "City Slickers"
- 23 Gateway rival
- 24 Most strange
- 27 Thinks about
- 30 Gargoyle
- 31 Beauty parlor
- 33 Actress Ruby
- 34 Final bio?
- 35 "Call Me _"
- 36 Nutmeg spice
- 37 Drawn Abner
- 38 Fastidious
- 39 Trap for the unsuspecting
- 40 Chic

- 42 Taxi devices
- 43 Chip's chipmunk buddy
- 44 "Crazy" singer
- 46 Folklore creature
- 48 Detroit suburb
- 52 Demolish
- 53 Illinois senator
- 54 Grace closing
- 55 At rest
- 56 Softly, in music
- 57 Twisted
- 58 Horse turns to the right
- 59 Spiral pin

DOWN

- 1 Rakes and heels
- 2 Spoils taken
- 3 Pisa's river
- 4 Most blatant
- 5 One kind of fortuneteller
- 6 Egyptian weight
- 7 Wretchedly bad
- 8 Diplomat's strong suit
- 9 Annoy
- 10 Wrap around
- 11 Share a night out

- 12 Display model
- 13 "Roots" author Haley
- 18 Malicious gossip
- 21 NYC station
- 23 Destine to tragedy
- 24 Ancient Greek coins
- 25 Red figure
- 26 Exercise count
- 27 "___ Misty for Me"
- 28 Happen again
- 29 Oozes
- 31 Obi
- 32 Madison Ave. output
- 35 Artistic inspiration
- 36 Like a shooting star?
- 38 Contents of a folder
- 39 Takeoffs
- 41 Grieve audibly
- 42 Look after
- 44 Periodical sequence
- 45 Bodies of water
- 46 Snatch
- 47 Title
- 48 Broad
- 49 Slope lift
- 50 Fork prong



- 51 Enough, at one time
- 53 Shift dirt

by Amanda Aparicio

Solution, page 11

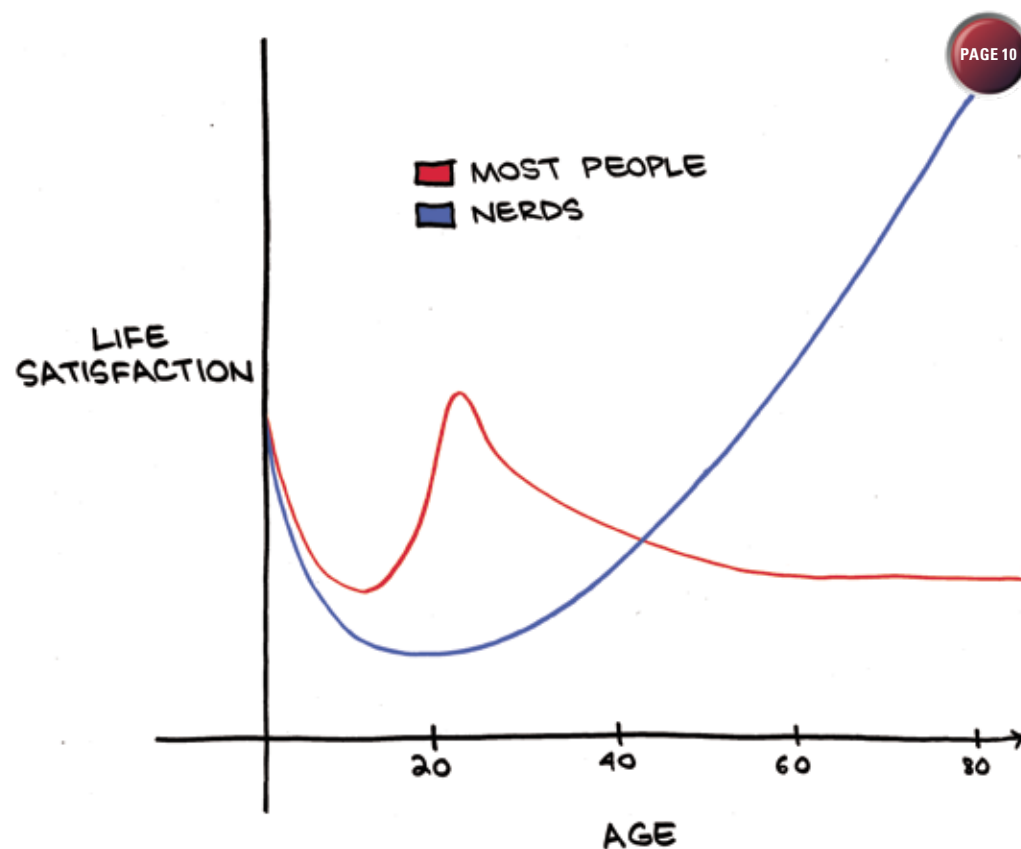
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Solution, page 11

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.



S M B C
SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CEREAL
BY ZACH WEINER
[2436]



by Jorge Cham

PILED HIGHER AND DEEPER



TODAY I AM FEELING...



GRANT DRIVEN



NOT CITED
ENOUGH



UNDER APPRECIATED



BORED



DISAPPOINTED



IMPATIENT



TENURED



DISSATISFIED



UNDERWHELMED



NOT AMUSED

MOVIE REVIEW

Tensions brew on Earth

Melancholia is a dramatic exploration of depression and disaster

By **Natthida Wiwatwicha**
STAFF WRITER

Melancholia opens with a series of breathtaking shots resembling four-dimensional-surrealist-painting scenes. The powerful prelude from the opera *Tristan und Isolde* directs the visual phenomena. Nothing comprehensible about the plot is



Kirsten Dunst plays a woman facing the end of the world in *Melancholia*. COURTESY OF MAGNOLIA PICTURES

given; we only know the movie is going to be intense. Suddenly, the music stops. There appeared on the screen “Melancholia — Lars Von Trier” in the most strangely frivolous font. It is as if someone just blew a party horn after making a solemn speech. We only know the movie is going to be absurdly ridiculous. It is Lars Von Trier, after all.

Melancholia is a hard dose of reality in surrealistic narrative. The movie was nominated for Palme d’Or, and Kirsten Dunst won Best Actress at the Cannes Film Festival. Danish director Lars Von Trier (Anti-christ, Dancer in the Dark, Dogville) depicts the negative side of humanity, with commentary on the world’s materialism, and attachment to the nonsensical. It is comical and devastating. It is a farce. It is about us.

***Melancholia* is a hard dose of reality in a surrealistic narrative. It is, at once, comical and devastating.**

Melancholia follows the relationship of two sisters, Justine (Kirsten Dunst) and Claire (Charlotte Gainsbourg), as the end of the world approaches. Justine arrives at her sister’s house to for her wedding ceremony, but her depression complicates the matter. As the night wraps itself up in dysfunction, the worst in people begin to reveal itself, and the physical Melancholia is introduced as a planet that comes close to colliding with Earth. The story evolves around how the characters attempt to control the situation, suppress fear, and handle uncertainty and disasters.

★★★★☆

Melancholia

Directed by Lars von Trier

Starring Kirsten Dunst, Charlotte Gainsbourg and Kiefer Sutherland

Rated R

Now playing at Kendall Square Cinema

In the film, the world is portrayed as a corrupted place, and Justine represents a pure being that is free from external reinforcement, false values, and ignorance. The movie exaggerates her independence to the extent that she is appears to be detached from reality. But, just as in Shakespeare, we know that the insane is the enlightened. If the juxtaposition of Justine and the world is a portrait of insanity and sanity, the truth is a negative print of that picture.

One of the major themes in the movie deals with the absurdity humanity has adopted as its normalcy. From the first scene on Justine’s wedding day, the limousine is

Melancholia, Page 8

EXHIBIT REVIEW

Tradition and modernity

Globalization: A Bipolar Story juxtaposes local landscapes with foreign concepts

By **Jonathan E. D. Richmond**
ADVISORY BOARD

Seven students sit typing on their laptops outside the Teachers and Students Center at Dhaka University. As with their Western counterparts, too much of their time is spent in idle Facebook gossip. But the context of the picture, “Global Gossip,” by photographer Md. Huzzatul Mursalin, differs strikingly from Western expectations. The background setting is worn and depressing, conflicting with the display of modernity in the foreground. And, despite the dirt, the typists have taken their shoes off, Bangladesh-style.

The students sit alone, locked in their personal Facebook worlds: A part of the global phenomenon is that “global gossip” has augmented and at times replaced local gossip when the laptop screen rules over direct human contact — and as the picture shows, it is a strangely lonely activity.

MIT student Raqeebul I. Ketan ’11 has put tremendous effort into organizing an international photography exhibition on the theme of “Globalization: A Bipolar Story.” The show has already been seen in Dhaka, and is now running at the Wiesner Art Gallery in the MIT Student Center through Nov. 30. The pictures are about the impacts local practices have on the globe and on the consequences of imposing foreign concepts on local landscapes.

The most disturbing photos focus on industry in Bangladesh. As they show, Bangladesh’s low-cost labor gets the dirty work other countries would rather do without. Vehicle parts are reconditioned in a cramped Dhaka workroom (“Graveyard and Grim Reapers” by Zahir Hasan); sparks fly at a steel rolling mill that appears to be located in Hell (“Burning the Irony Wishes” by Syful Islam Rony); ships are scrapped at a Chittagong yard known for its hazardous work practices (“Pollution Migration” by Abdul Aziz Apu).

The output of brick kilns blights the river landscape (“Toxicity in the City” by Himel Nag Rana), while a river is dyed psychedelic green by the dumping of indus-

trial effluent (“A Story of Rivers” by Adnan Arsalan). A boy holds a dead fish pulled out of a dead river (“Fish out of Water” by Javed Miandad). “Global Motorization” by Darshan Chakma blames global influences for traffic jams and their associated pollution.

The photos tell compelling stories, but they don’t necessarily depict the whole picture.

It was especially shocking to see these pictures in a Western art gallery for they underlined how easy it is to get used to the unacceptable and regard it as somehow “normal.” I had seen monstrous-colored rivers of death in Bangla-

desh, and observed appalling work conditions on too many occasions — in one case, a manager offered me tea and biscuits and genteel chit-chat at the same time as small children were straining under the weight of heavy objects in the background. Seeing such images out of their context underlines their outrageousness.

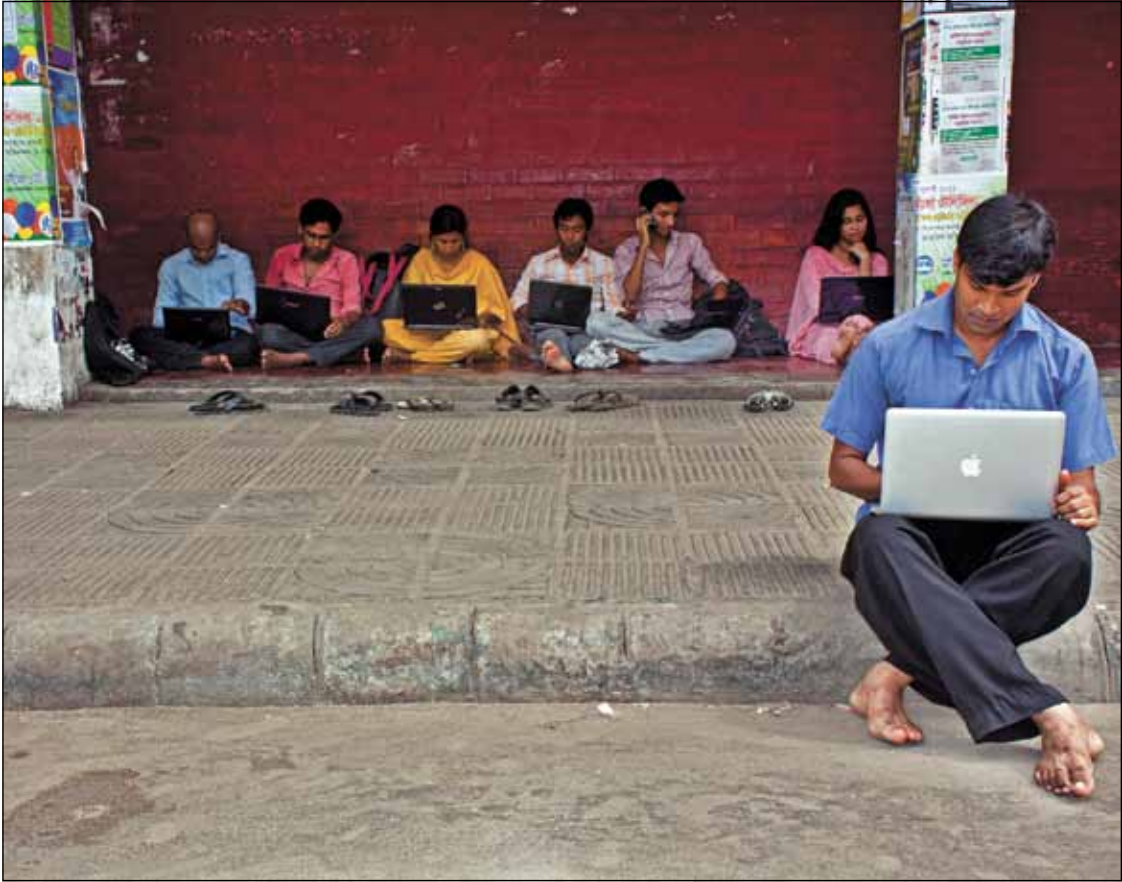
While the photos Ketan has put together are excellent and tell compelling stories, aided by a write-up submitted by each photographer, they don’t necessarily depict the whole picture. While the world places demand for dirty industries in places like Bangladesh where labor is cheap and can work under conditions unacceptable in the developed world, and international trends in automotive mobility transplant desires for car ownership to Bangladesh, the negative impacts of such phenomena do not have to be quite so dire.

It is true that Western importers want the cheapest possible prod-

Globalization: A Bipolar Story
MIT Student Art Association and Bangladeshi Photographers
Wiesner Art Gallery
Through Nov. 30

ucts to sell at the highest possible prices and have not done nearly enough to promote decent workplace conditions and environmental practices in countries such as Bangladesh. However, it is too easy to blame the outside world alone when the reality is that industry could be a lot cleaner and less dangerous in Bangladesh were industry to be less exploitative of its workers; were government to have

Globalization, Page 8

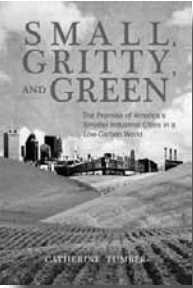


Mursalin’s “Global Gossiping” is on view at the Wiesner Art Gallery until Nov. 30. COURTESY OF MD. HUZZATUL MURSALIN

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The Tech talks with director Anne Makepeace about *We Still Live Here*

STAFF WRITER

The nonsensical becomes the norm in *Melancholia*

The end of the world allows categorization of people based on how they deal with the inevitable, which extends to a greater meaning. There are the innocent who follow and believe, the enlightened who accept and detach, and lastly, as with Claire in the last scene, the desperate, frightened, pathetic. The first two surely are in peace. The last one is characteristically human, painful to watch.

'One of the most obvious difficulties was: how do you visualize a story about a language?'

Global influences

The photography is terrific; the show thought-provoking. And the concept — displaying the same material in both Bangladesh and the USA — is itself a mark of globalization. Ketan includes a picture of Hilsha fish served at a Bangladeshi student party at MIT. He also allows himself the indulgence of a self-portrait: a desolate nighttime scene shot with a self-timer showing Ketan alone contemplating the Charles River and Boston skyline. We are left wondering about the thoughts in his mind as he looks out at the coolly illuminated New World. While he is now part of this, the love of his country that comes through from his photography and the exhibition, he has organized show that he is always a Bangladeshi.

***Directed and produced by
Anne Makepeace***

To find out more about We Still Live Here, visit <http://www.makepeaceproductions.com/wampfilm.html>. PBS is also streaming We Still Live Here for free through Thanksgiving day at <http://video.pbs.org/video/2168433568>.



from page 5

C	L	A	S	P		A	L	T	I		E	D	D	A
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FENG WU—THE TECH

Team Instinct faces off against Team Believe the Hype in the finals of the *Halo: Reach* event at the Major League Gaming (MLG) competition in Providence, RI over the weekend. Instincts went on to become the MLG 2011 national champions, taking away a prize purse of \$100,000.

Pfizer stresses MIT collaboration

Center will complement Kendall area biotech cluster

Groundbreaking, from Page 1

researchers, Dolsten said. Pfizer will be working directory with some MIT groups and researchers from the Picower Institute for Learning and Memory, McGovern Institute for Brain Research, the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, and the Broad Institute.

Pfizer’s presence near the MIT campus will help break down the barrier between research in academia and engineering in industry, speakers said. “The center of why we’re here is to reshape the ecosystem of innovation,” said Dolsten.

Pfizer’s new center is the latest addition to the Kendall Square-area cluster of biotechnology firms. Kendall Square already houses over 150 biotechnology and information firms including biotech giants Biogen Idec, Genzyme, and Novartis. Governor Patrick remarked that this is part of an upward trend for Cambridge; in a bad economy, the

city’s unemployment is already going down, and Massachusetts has moved to sixth place in CNBC’s rankings of top states for business.

By placing emphasis on companies like Pfizer, Cambridge will utilize what Governor Patrick calls “Cambridge’s best natural resource” — brainpower. “We are inventing and shaping our own future, and not waiting for chance,” he said.

The new Pfizer center in Cambridge will house the company’s Cardiovascular, Metabolic and Endocrine Diseases and Neuroscience research units. In February, Pfizer announced that it would be narrowing its research efforts to concentrate more heavily on these specialties.

Pfizer has high hopes for a future in biomedical sciences. According to Dolsten, the company’s ideal achievement would be a complete reference listing of links between genes and diseases — a sort of phone-book or yellow pages of biomedicine. Dolsten’s goal is an ambitious one,

but he says the rate at which technology has advanced is extraordinary — just a decade ago, sequencing the human genome required a billion dollars and ten years; today, it can be done for \$4,000 in a week.

“Imagine what our world will look like in 2021 if technology advances at the same rate,” he added.

McKenzie acknowledged that biomedical research is a difficult field. “For when the going gets tough, we have a quote [that we] put up around the laboratories: ‘Remember, the patient is waiting for us.’”

Allen Krieger ’62, a fellow of the American Physical Society, made the closing remarks at the ceremony. As someone who has been diagnosed with early-stage Alzheimer’s, he urged the importance of Pfizer’s mission. “If there’s anything I can do to keep the [Alzheimer’s] wolf away, I want to do it,” he said.

Pfizer predicts they will move into the new building when it is completed by the end of 2013.

Orientation, from Page 1

presentation and a public forum, where students and staff spoke about FPOPs, REX, greek rush, and CityDays.

Smith presented some of the guiding principles and findings of the committee thus far. Smith said the most important question for the committee is: “Will [changing orientation] make the experience of first-year students better?”

During the presentation, Smith said that the committee wants to ensure that first-year students feel welcome at MIT and its residential communities, settle into their selection of classes, become aware of issues they might encounter during the year, and learn how to get help when the “inevitable pressures of MIT” begin to mount. The committee will be giving a report to Dean Chris Colombo and Dean Daniel E. Hastings ’78 sometime in December or January.

At this point, the committee “is in no position to make any recommendations” and is still gathering information, Smith said. An additional forum may be held in January to get additional feedback.

Smith said that the committee focused on four areas: REX, Orientation, Rush, and FPOPs, and said that the entire orientation period amounted to a \$656,675 loss to MIT (not including Rush) from housing for early returns, food, and space usage — though they said cost would not be a big factor in their decision. The committee’s said that freshmen are more overall satisfied with their orientation experience and feel more connected to MIT when compared to the orientation surveys conducted in 1997 and other those of other universities today. Smith identified the main successes of orientation as helping first-years meet, introducing them to off-campus activities, and getting them settled into classes.

The findings also reflected that students were more satisfied this year with summer dorm assignments and had “overwhelmingly positive” experiences with their FPOPs. With Rush, the committee reported that many students felt as if they did not have much time to make a decision, though participation in Rush did not correlate with satisfaction with orientation. When it comes to advising, which could “benefit from increased faculty participation,” meetings with advisors and associate advisors are reportedly slightly more helpful than in 1997. The committee also wants to explore how to continue discussions of topics like alcohol awareness and sexual harassment into the year via living groups.

A Public Forum

The latter half of the event constituted an open forum where members of the MIT community could provide feedback. Kristi G. Kebinger, Community Volunteer Administrator from the Public Service Center, spoke about how participants of the Freshman Urban Program (FUP) benefit from community involvement and individual introspection, and also spoke about how the community benefited from both FUP and CityDays, an Institute-sponsored day of volunteering. The committee inquired about the merging of the two, which may be explored in the future.

Some students also spoke up about the benefits of FUP and other “developmental” (as opposed to academic) FPOPs — namely the Freshman Arts Program (FAP, Freshman Outdoors Program (FOP), and Freshman Leadership Program (FLP) — and also about how CityDays was a substitute for students who could not participate in an FPOP. The committee said that its members “recognize the value of all FPOPs” and do not plan on doing away with them.

Another student asked if the committee had considered doing away with REX altogether since she didn’t think it was doing its job and was losing money. The committee replied that the data showed that REX was helping people meet each other and “find their way around social MIT.” The committee members said that they want REX to focus more on community building and not be limited to occurring before the housing readjustment lottery deadline.

Many students were also there for issues regarding FSILG rush. Affiliates from Epsilon Theta, Phi Kappa Theta, and other FSILGs spoke in defense of the current timing of Rush and Recruitment, saying that, though the only con seems to be “Rush being too rushed,” there are many benefits to an early Rush. One recent alumnus recalled that Recruitment was moved to Orientation from IAP for many good reasons — particularly the fact that some sororities have national regulations that they must follow that necessitate an early Recruitment — and said that the Institute seems to be forgetting its own decisions. Students also emphasized the “uniqueness” of MIT living groups in that they have their own methods of mentorship and community. Students said that Rush is also at a good time in the beginning of the year because freshmen benefit from pass/no record and FSILG members have more free time to recruit. A later Rush could see stressed freshmen, busy upperclassmen, and inclement weather.

—Bruno B. F. Faviero

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Stephanie Lin discovered biology interest at MIT

Senior says experiences in UROPs, GPI inspired a medical interest with a global twist

Rhodes, from Page 1

pated in at MIT contributed to her interest in biology and medicine. “I did a couple UROPs related to medical science, and those research experiences made me increasingly interested in studying medicine,” she said. She hopes to attend medical school after finishing her year at Oxford.

At the Whitehead Lab, she did research on the Kaposi’s sarcoma virus, a cancer-causing virus that commonly infects AIDS patients. She has also worked with Assistant Professor

of Biology Jeroen Saeij, studying the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*, which primarily targets cats and rats.

Lin has also been very active in the campus community. She currently acts as vice president for education in her sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta, and is the editor-in-chief of MIT’s literary magazine Rune. She is also a fluent speaker of Spanish and Mandarin (in fact, Lin’s concentration is in Spanish).

Lin has worked abroad in Mexico during IAP and the summer as part of MIT’s Global Poverty Initiative. There, she worked on developing

agricultural education and building greenhouses to improve nutrition and teach people how to use agricultural technologies. “My experiences abroad really drew me into global health, particularly because there is such a huge disparity in health care quality between developed and developing nations,” she noted. “My interest in infectious diseases ties well with international health issues, because of the presence of malaria and tuberculosis in some developing nations.”

According to Lin, one of her motivations for applying to the Rhodes

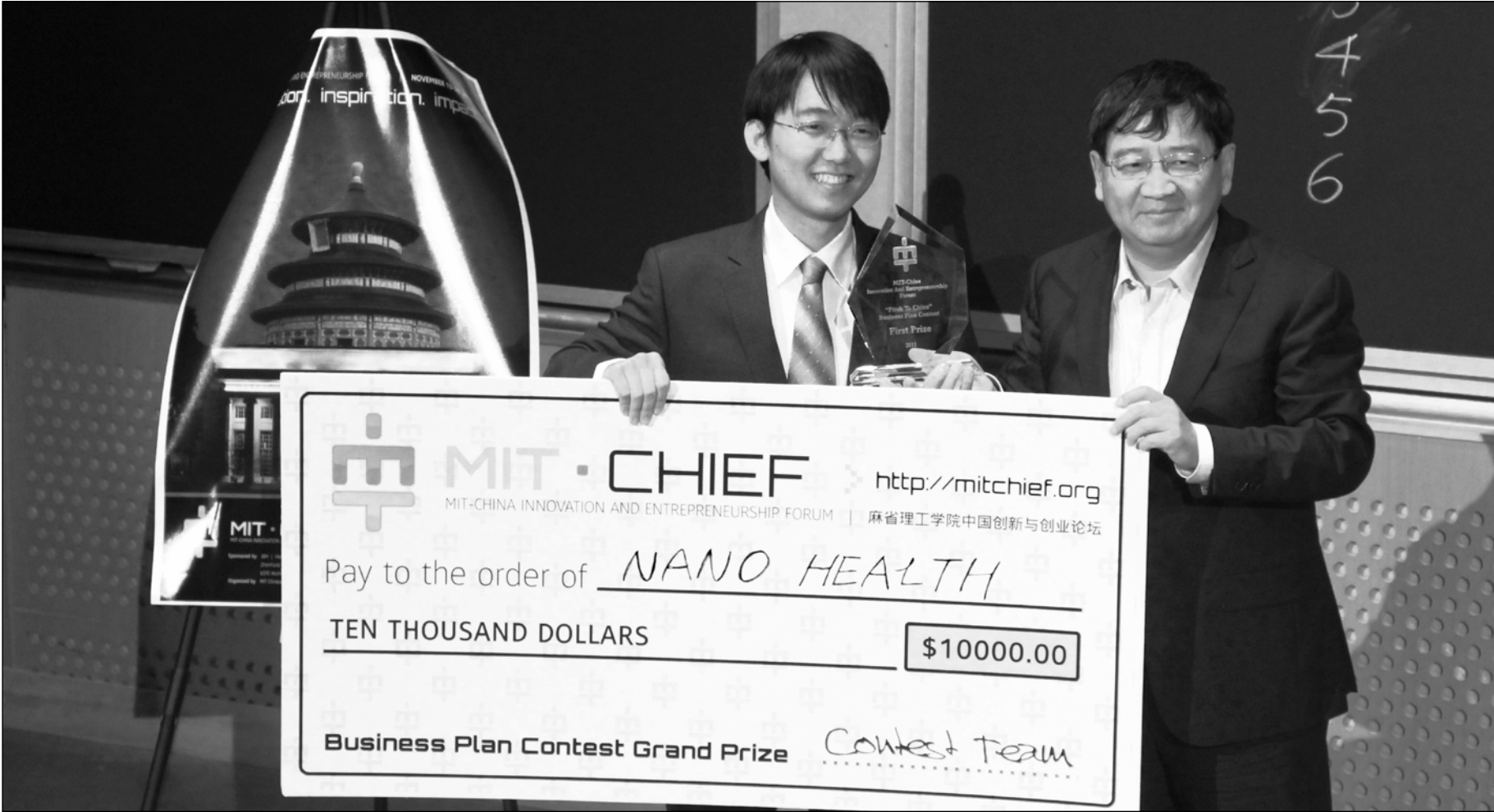
Scholarship was the abundance of diverse programs at Oxford. She feels that Oxford is a good place to explore the social side of education. “I like the self-directed learning approach at Oxford and the strong humanities program,” Lin said. “It’s a terrific place to think and grow.”

“The application process was definitely challenging,” she added. “But I definitely got a lot of support throughout the application process, from my family, friends, sisters at Theta, professors, and staff.”

When asked about what advice she would give to students, she said,

“Be flexible and don’t be afraid to pursue what are you genuinely excited about. Make sure to take advantage of the great opportunities MIT offers outside of your coursework.”

Lin acknowledged that it is easy to feel overburdened with studies, but she emphasized the importance of exploring MIT’s opportunities and forming close relationships with students. “It’s very special that here you can form bonds with other students who are passionate about math and science, and who will have amazing accomplishments in the future,” Lin said.



Qimin Quan wins first place in the “Pitch to China” business plan competition for his biosensor technology for medical diagnostics, “Nano Health,” on Sunday. The competition was part of the MIT-China Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum, a two-day event designed to encourage collaboration between China and the United States in technology and entrepreneurship.

KAILIANG CHEN—THE TECH

Student ‘Occupiers’ protest tuition hikes in UC system

University of California tuition has nearly doubled over past several years, amidst education cuts

Protests, from Page 1

A video that showed two University of California, Davis, police officers using pepper spray on seated protesters has gone viral, with hundreds of thousands watching what might have been a relatively small encampment when compared to the larger protests across the country. The video has led to demands that Chancellor Linda P. B. Katehi resign. On Monday, Katehi said she was putting the campus police chief on administrative leave as a way to rebuild trust on campus.

The attack has galvanized protesters on other campuses. Students at the Los Angeles, Berkeley, Riverside, and Davis campuses said Monday that they intended to restart their encampments Monday night, in part to test whether they will be rousted or arrested in the wake of the pepper-spraying.

After years of watching the state’s budget for higher education erode, they are demanding that the state and university administrators find a way to lower tuition that they say is squeezing out the middle class.

“These are institutions that we call the people’s university, but all of us who are in it have just watched this thing collapse on itself being starved for resources year after year,” said Lillian Taiz, the president of the California Faculty Association, the union that represents professors in the California State University system. “What keeps happening is that we are turning the university into a place where really only the wealthy can go. The

students are watching their parents fall out of the middle class and watching their own ability to move into it be sabotaged.”

Tuition at the University of California has nearly doubled over the past several years, and next year the system will collect more money from student tuition than from state revenues. And with the state budget situation worsening by the month, the Legislature seems likely to impose another \$200 million in higher education cuts next year. Last week, the California State University Board of Trustees approved a 9 percent tuition increase, even as it cuts courses and student services.

“For the last several years, the debate has been what are we going to cut, but we need to change the conversation to who is going to pay for public education,” said Kyle Arnone, one of the protest organizers at the University of California, Los Angeles, and a graduate student in sociology. “We are forcing people to consider the financing of education in a larger context.”

Like many of the organizers involved in the protest, Arnone is a member of the union that represents graduate students. The union is part of a coalition of labor groups and other organizations that are pressing to close a loophole in the state’s property taxes and to increase taxes on the state’s wealthiest residents. Arnone said the organization hoped to pressure the regents who oversee the system’s budget to sign a pledge backing the changes in the state’s tax system.

Arnone said he expected dozens of students to camp at UCLA overnight Monday. At the same time, other students are planning to camp out and guard a Bruin statue, the campus mascot. The statue is often vandalized this time of year, ahead of the football game against the school’s cross-town rival, the University of Southern California.

“We’re going to make them deal with whether they’ll selectively enforce their laws.”

The University of California president, Mark G. Yudof, convened a conference call with the chancellors of all 10 campuses, urging them not to use police force to respond to “peace-

ful, lawful protests,” said Daniel M. Dooley, a senior vice president for the system who participated in the call. The president also plans to create protocols to detail how the campuses should respond to the ongoing protest.

Dooley said that he did not expect Katehi to resign and that Yudof had confidence that she could move the campus beyond the incident.

Thousands of people gathered on the Davis campus for a noon rally Monday where Katehi spoke. Organizers of the protest there told her she should wait in line with other speakers.

“I am here to apologize. I feel hor-

state’s budget cuts and in many ways are sympathetic to the protesters’ demands.

“The rapidly rising fees give us all heartburn,” said Gibor Bafri, the vice chancellor for equity and inclusion at Berkeley, who has met with the protesters several times. “We don’t believe that higher education is a private right but a public good.”

Bafri added: “The problem is that the protesters aren’t one group. We’ve got protesters who want to take the place down, and we have very responsible student leaders and everybody in between. When it gets tangled up with how the university responds, it makes things more complicated.”

Solution to Sudoku

from page 6

7	3	9	8	4	6	5	2	1
4	2	8	1	5	7	9	3	6
6	5	1	3	9	2	8	4	7
8	7	5	2	1	4	3	6	9
9	4	2	7	6	3	1	5	8
3	1	6	5	8	9	4	7	2
2	9	7	4	3	1	6	8	5
5	6	4	9	2	8	7	1	3
1	8	3	6	7	5	2	9	4

SMBC, from Page 6

Solution to Techdoku

from page 6

5	2	4	1	6	3
4	1	3	6	5	2
3	6	2	5	4	1
2	5	1	4	3	6
6	3	5	2	1	4
1	4	6	3	2	5

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